



2021-2022

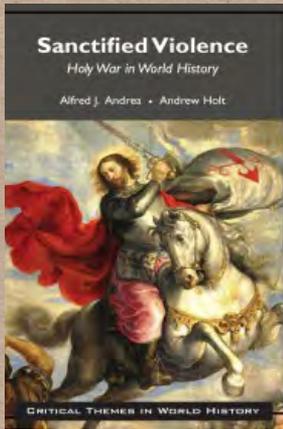
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RELIGION CATALOGUE



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## SANCTIFIED VIOLENCE

by **Alfred J. Andrea** and  
**Andrew Holt**

**Hackett**, 208 p

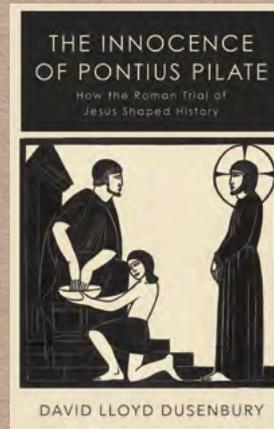
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A comprehensive and readable overview, it provides a lively introduction to the subject of holy war in its broadest sense - as 'sanctified violence' in the service of a god or ideology.

With Andrea and Holt as sure-footed guides, *Sanctified Violence* tackles a vast subject: the global history of holy war in its many forms across the millennia. From cosmic struggles between forces of good and evil at the dawn of mythic time to apocalyptic battles at history's end, this book explores the transcendental impulses and religious ideologies that fuel and shape collective violence in virtually every culture and age. Modern military chaplains and armed Buddhist monks keep company with medieval Templars and Aztec Flower warriors. Sanctified Violence never pretends to have all the answers to difficult questions about warfare and the sacred, but rather invites reflective readers to appraise their complicated relationship for themselves. Richly illustrated, each chapter offers a detailed commentary on its major historical sources and poses questions for further analysis, making the volume ideal for the classroom.

**Alfred J. Andrea** is emeritus professor of History, The University of Vermont, and general editor of Hackett's Critical Themes in History series. Among his other books: *The Medieval Record: Sources of Medieval History*, and *Seven Myths of the Crusades*.

**Andrew Holt** is associate professor of History at the Florida State College at Jacksonville.



## THE INNOCENCE OF PONTIUS PILATE

How the Roman Trial of Jesus  
Shaped History

by **David Lloyd Dusenbury**

**Hurst**, 456 p

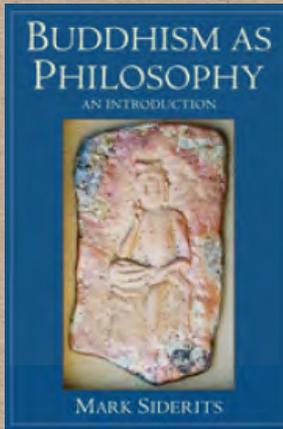
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The gospels and ancient historians agree: Jesus was sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate, the Roman imperial prefect in Jerusalem. To this day, Christians of all churches confess that Jesus died 'under Pontius Pilate'. But what exactly does that mean?

Within decades of Jesus' death, Christians began suggesting that it was the Judaeen authorities who had crucified Jesus - a notion later echoed in the Qur'an. In the third century, one philosopher raised the notion that, although Pilate had condemned Jesus, he'd done so justly; this idea survives in one of the main strands of modern New Testament criticism. So what is the truth of the matter? And what is the history of that truth?

David Lloyd Dusenbury reveals Pilate's 'innocence' as not only a neglected theological question, but a recurring theme in the history of European political thought. He argues that Jesus' interrogation by Pilate, and Augustine of Hippo's North African sermon on that trial, led to the concept of secularity and the logic of tolerance emerging in early modern Europe. Without the Roman trial of Jesus, and the arguments over Pilate's innocence, the history of empire - from the first century to the twenty-first - would have been radically different.

**David Lloyd Dusenbury** is a research fellow at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is the author of *Platonic Legislations: An Essay on Legal Critique in Ancient Greece* and *The Space of Time: A Sensualist Interpretation of Time in Augustine*.



## BUDDHISM AS PHILOSOPHY

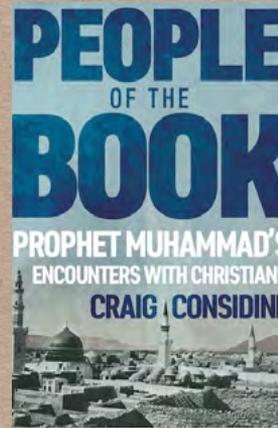
An Introduction

by **Mark Siderits**

**Hackett**, 304 p

**2nd edition**

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## BOOK OF THE PEOPLE

Prophet Muhammad's Encounters with Christians

by **Craig Considine**

**Hurst**, 232 p

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In *Buddhism As Philosophy*, Mark Siderits makes the Buddhist philosophical tradition accessible to a Western audience.

Offering generous selections from the canonical Buddhist texts and providing an engaging, analytical introduction to the fundamental tenets of Buddhist thought, this revised, expanded, and updated edition builds on the success of the first edition in clarifying the basic concepts and arguments of the Buddhist philosophers.

**Mark Siderits** is professor emeritus, Department of Philosophy, Illinois State University.

"Buddhism As Philosophy... makes an excellent text for advanced undergraduate students. [A] main strength of this book is the way it brings Indian Buddhist philosophy into active dialogue and debate with well-established currents of Anglo-American analytical philosophy." - Evan Thompson, *Philosophy East and West*

A considered study of Muslim - Christian coexistence and dialogue in the time of Prophet Muhammad.

The Christians that lived around the Arabian Peninsula during Muhammad's lifetime are shrouded in mystery. Some of the stories of the Prophet's interactions with them are based on legends and myths, while others are more authentic and plausible. But who exactly were these Christians? Why did Muhammad interact with them as he reportedly did? And what lessons can today's Christians and Muslims learn from these encounters?

Scholar Craig Considine, one of the most powerful global voices speaking in admiration of the prophet of Islam, provides answers to these questions. Through a careful study of works by historians and theologians, he highlights an idea central to Muhammad's vision: an inclusive Ummah, or Muslim nation, rooted in citizenship rights, interfaith dialogue, and freedom of conscience, religion and speech. In this unprecedented sociological analysis of one of history's most influential human beings, Considine offers groundbreaking insight that could redefine Christian and Muslim relations.

**Craig Considine** is a lecturer in sociology at Rice University and a global speaker, who has contributed to *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, CNN, the BBC, *Foreign Policy* and more. An American Catholic of Irish and Italian descent, he has written numerous books and articles on Christian-Muslim relations.



## A SMALL HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

by **Jürgen Bärsch**

**Pustet, 207 p**

2nd edition

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## NO NOTHING A Critique on Academic Nihilism

by **John van der Horst**

**Aldo Manuzio, 224 p**

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With his history of the Christian liturgy, Jürgen Bärsch offers a compact overview of the major stages and developments in the liturgical life. He also conveys the cultural-historical influences on and through the liturgy in all its facets.

In short, poignant chapters, he shows the numerous and sometimes massive changes in worship in the history of Christianity. For the concrete form of the liturgical celebration has changed many times in its interaction with ecclesial and social upheavals, and it has been influenced by changes in culture and mentality.

**Jürgen Bärsch** is professor of Liturgical Science at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt.

Is the mind merely an activity of the brain? Is man actually the slave of his genes? In the scientific world, both questions are often answered with “yes”. But John van der Horst has his doubts about this academic “nihilism” that assumes that the world is ultimately ruled by blind natural forces. He kicks the sore leg of materialistic reductionists by asking questions like: Why do people like music? How can life originate from dead and languid matter? Do our memories really reside in our brains? Do love and morality exist in a power- and survival-driven evolution? In an accessible style, John van der Horst gnaws at the shaky pillars on which academic nihilism is built.

The author shows that there is a positive orientation in this world that cannot be described only in material terms, because in many ways it is precisely opposite to matter: inspired, committed, altruistic.

Philosopher **John van der Horst** is an advisor in the field of education, diversity and culture, and is also a writer and painter. He has also taught philosophy and ethics for many years at the Administrative Academy of The Netherlands.



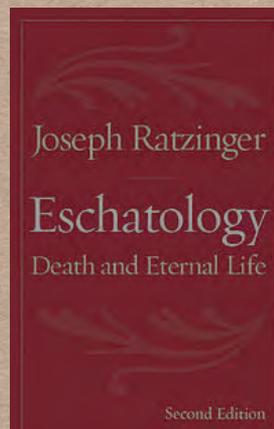
## IS GOD LOVE?

Looking for Clues in Bible and Tradition

by **Hansjürgen Verweyen**

**Pustet, 208 p**

**TRANSLATION  
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## ESCHATOLOGY

Death and eternal Life  
**6th Edition**

by **Joseph Ratzinger  
(Pope Benedikt XVI)**

**Pustet, 231 p**

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Is God really love?

Even when he mercilessly drowned his creatures in the flood? Even if he asks of Abraham to sacrifice his only son? Even if he exposes Job to Satan's sadistic games?

And what about the Apocalypse? Is the God of Love not suppressed by a cosmic judge who stages untold horror scenarios at the end of time?

Can God be love, even when he sends Jesus to die on the cross as an expiatory sacrifice? Hansjürgen Verweyen takes the reader on an exciting search for clues in Scripture and tradition after the God, who is love, and leads him time and again to surprising insights.

**Hansjürgen Verweyen** is a theologian. He spent many years working in the USA and at the University GH Essen. From 1984 to 2004 he's been Professor of Fundamental Theology at the University of Freiburg.

Eschatology, which for many centuries has lived a quiet life as "the doctrine concerning last, or final, matters", has conquered a central place in the current theological debate. In the introduction the author scrutinizes the reasons of this shift, and the historical background of this situation. Especially through the meeting with the religious feeling of future in Marxism, Eschatology has become the fountain of theological movements like those entitling Future, Hope, and Liberation in their names. The Author notices that Eschatology poses the problem of the very essence of Christianity. He deals also with the individual dimension of the eschatological matter, i.e. the questions of Death and Immortality, and finally with the central theme „the upcoming Life“: the Resurrection from Death, the comeback of Christ, the Final Judgement, Hell and Heaven.

On all approached problems the Author shows the current state of debate, examines thoroughly the biblical foundations and analyzes interpretations and solutions all through the history of theology. This fundamental work gives us a better understanding of the central question of Hope, and is the Catholic answer to the current debate about Death and Life.

**Joseph Ratzinger** has been a professor of catholic Theology in Freising, Bonn, Münster, Tübingen and Regensburg. A leading theologian since Vatican Council in 1962, in 1977 was named Archbishop of Munich and Freising, Prefect for the Congregation of Faith. In April 2005 he was elected as successor of Pope John Paul II. choosing the name Benedict XVI.



## EHRE, SCHAM UND SCHANDE

Why are Women subjected to  
Violence?

by **Emina Saric**

**Passagen**, 140 p

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## SEXUALITY POWER RELIGION

A Time-Travel through the  
Bermuda Triangle of Human  
Existence

by **Joachim Kügler**

**Echter**, 128 p

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Using terms such as shame, guilt and honor, Emina Saric illuminates how gender-specific role assignments are transferred from the past to the present through education and tradition.

Forms of violence such as forced marriage, behavior and dress codes, intimidation, threats and honor killings, which take place under the guise of traditions, religions and cultures, have long become part of our everyday lives. The bearers of such structures and forms of tradition, which are not immediately recognizable, can be of all genders and gender identities. Those affected are often not aware of the dimension of traditional thinking and behavior. In order to break the spiral of violence, both theoretical analysis and practical work with children and young people are required.

**Emina Saric** is a member of the Expert Council for Integration and researches gender relations in patriarchal worlds. She teaches at the Catholic University of Education and at the training center for social professions in Graz. In 2020 she received the Human Rights Prize of the State of Styria.

For more than ten years, abuse scandals in church and society have aroused public anger and revulsion.

Against this background, the New Testament scholar Joachim Kügler undertakes some biblical and religious-historical excursions in order to better understand the close connection between power, sexuality and religion. This journey through time is not an invitation to escape from the present, but an attempt to uncover the basic structures of male-dominated societies. In the encounter with fathers who offer their daughters for rape, women who have to become men in order to be equal, and gods who play out their power sexually, it becomes oppressively clear that the label "rape culture" was not only fit back then.

What is different today? There is publicity, criticism and even alternatives.

**Joachim Kügler** is a theologian. He is the holder of the chair for Biblical Theology at the University of Bamberg.



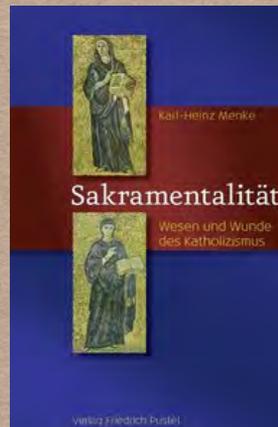
## DOES TRUTH FREE US, OR DOES FREEDOM MAKE US TRUE?

A dispute

by **Karl-Heinz Menke**

**Pustet, 176 p**

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## SACRAMENTALITY

Essence and Wounds of  
Catholicism

by **Karl-Heinz Menke**

**Pustet, 360 p**

**4th edition**

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A dramatic polarization in Christian Theology has been noticeable for some time. The opposite positions concern topics such as celibacy, women priesthood, admission of civilly remarried divorcees to the sacraments, homosexual marriage, or the choice between a hierarchical or participatively organized community.

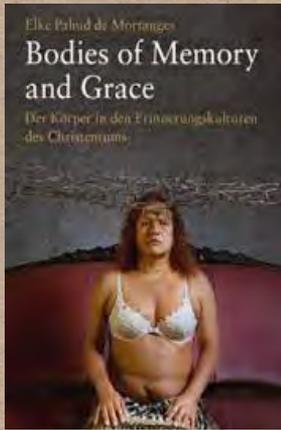
Yet whoever thinks that this is only about one or the other change in sexual morals or in the self-understanding of the Church, is mistaken about how serious the situation really is. For this is not about small adjustments or liberalization – the key question is on whether the truth frees us, or freedom makes us true.

**Karl-Heinz Menke** is professor of Dogmatics and Philosophical-theological Propaedeutics at the University of Bonn and since 2001 member of the NRW Academy of Sciences.

The core thesis of the book is: Catholicism is not a specific doctrine or organization, but the sacramental way of life and thinking of Christianity.

The author assumes that the inner center of Catholicism has been more deeply wounded in recent decades than in the times of Reformation and European Enlightenment - notably by the so-called postmodernism, but also by a consensus that remains blind to the basic difference between Catholicism and Protestant Christianity.

If sacramentality is the essence of Catholicism, then demands such as the priesthood of women, Eucharistic hospitality, or the transformation of the “church from above” into a “church from below” are not desirable concessions, but issues that question one’s own identity.



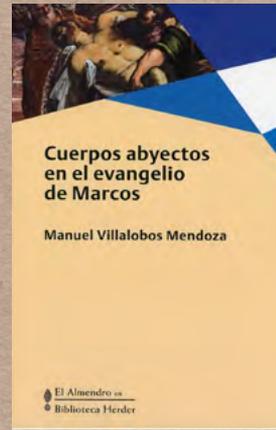
## BODIES OF MEMORY AND GRACE

The Body in the Remembrance  
Cultures of Christianity

by **Elke Pahud de  
Mortanges**

TVZ, 150 p

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## DESPICABLE BODIES

In Mark's Gospel

by **Manuel Villalobos  
Mendoza**

Herder, 302 p

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Christianity is considered a religion of the scriptures. But at its origin there are not texts, but the naked body.

The incarnation, birth, life, passion and resurrection of Jesus - these are the central salvation events of Christianity. Jesus Christ is the "body that matters" par excellence. Redemption and salvation take place through his flesh. The believing appropriation of his body took place in the history of Christianity through various forms of embodiment as: there are the individual bodies of the believers, on whom the original body is impressed on and under the skin, there is the church itself, a supra-individual, social body, born from the wound on the side of Jesus on the cross, which was sometimes boldly portrayed as a bleeding vulva.

Elke Pahud de Mortanges' search for traces puts the body and image worlds of Christian piety in relation to modern body performance art and thus brings to light a surprising variety of embodiments of Christian salvation.

**Elke Pahud de Mortanges**, a theologian, is an adjunct professor for dogmatics and the history of dogmas and lecturer for Gender Aspects in Religious Studies at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland.

The Gospel of Mark goes beyond all limits in his account of the Passion. The characters he presents, including Jesus, have in common that their being from the other side: they transgress all kinds of borders and cause confusion in the unity and order promoted by the Jews of the time. Mark describes some characters in the story as excluded from society and the temple due to their gender, illness, or effeminacy. Abjection is what distinguishes what is fully human from what is not. The process of becoming human or inhuman is a rigid and well-orchestrated mechanism of exclusion. Jesus defines a new order and new frontiers thanks to his zeal to announce good news for all abject bodies.

The author investigates here on topics such as gender deconstruction, performativity, masculinity, vulnerability, abjection, the precariousness of bodies, the dialectic of power that exists between the act of looking at another male body and subversion and transgression of borders, both real and symbolic. He shows how all these elements are present in the Gospel of Mark. His hermeneutics rests substantially on Judith Butler's thinking, especially on her notions of gender, performativity, and sex.

**Manuel Villalobos Mendoza**, a master in Bible and Theology from the Catholic Theological Union of Chicago, is a doctor of Bible from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary of Chicago and an adjunct professor of New Testament at Chicago Theological Seminary. He has also published *When Men Were not Men* and *Second Generation Christians. The Pastoral Epistles from the Other Side*.



## MANTLE OF CHARITY

by **Henrieke Groenwold**

**Brevier, 224 p**

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## THE PRESENT ONE

by **Catharina IJzelenberg**

**Manuzio, 292 p**

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A girl wrestling with her past and finding strength to stand up for herself and survive child abuse in a Christian family.

The life of young Hannah is ruled by fear of God's judgment. When she has grown up, she realizes that this fear still forms the basis for some of her choices. She is silent about what she experienced as a child. In her thirties, the memories she tries to deny still tumble over her. Until the question arises what freedom is worth.

Hannah's manipulating father denies everything and tries to keep Hannah silent. When she finally speaks out, his manipulation skills prove still to control the family, and Hannah is shunned by everyone. She remains alone, but stronger than ever before.

Hannah is a model for women who have (had) to do with religious manipulation and/or sexual abuse. Hannah doesn't really exist, but women like Hanna certainly do.

**Henrieke Groenwold** (1979) studied pastoral work and had experiences sexual abuse herself in her youth.

Alrik, the ten-year-old son of Carel and Clara, dies. They put off the pain of loss, even years later.

Clara seeks new paths while Carel tries to keep everything in his life under control. Sister Kathleen and brother Mees also lose their parents in a sense. Unconsciously, Alrik is always there, as are the different ways their parents deal with the loss.

The love and faithfulness of the family is touching. Because they need each other, because of Alrik and because of love itself. Kathleen doesn't want children, but her husband does. She fights against the desire to step out of her predictable life. Mees finds the woman of his life, who drops him when it turns out that he cannot have children. He seeks love from a prostitute. Through an incident, the family members come to terms with how much the loss of Alrik still affects their lives and they try to make a fresh start together.

Catharina IJzelenberg knows how to get to the core of the theme without making her story heavy. The present one is a novel about learning to bear loss, about powerlessness and starting over, and about the challenges within a relationship in difficult circumstances.

Catharina died December 2020, just two days before this novel was released.



## THE GIFT OF GRATITUDE

by **Cornelius Bohl**

**Echter**, 128 p

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## GIVING THE FUTURE A FUTURE

A Spirituality of Socio-ecological Conversion

by **Fabian Moos**

**Echter**, 94 p

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To be young, beautiful and rich: who wouldn't want that?

Who doesn't want that: to be young, beautiful and rich!? This is exactly what people have associated with gratitude: Gratitude makes you young, beautiful, and it makes even one's life richer. But what is gratitude, exactly?

Anyone who thinks about this matter will realize that genuine gratitude has always been a religious experience, even where "God" is not explicitly mentioned. Gratitude is not just a matter for the mind and the heart: gratitude leads to action. It can be practiced and it can grow. It is the source of celebration.

Franciscan spirituality invites you to such gratitude. Francis of Assisi was a happy person. Not because his life was carefree, but because he has kept a grateful heart.

After receiving his doctorate in Franciscan Spirituality in Rome, **Cornelius Bohl** worked for many years in novitiate formation and in parish ministry. Since 2012 he has been Provincial Minister of the German Franciscan Province based in Munich.

Climate experts agree: Humanity is at a crossroads. Either a fundamental transformation of the way we live on planet earth will succeed in the next few years, or we will head for a humanitarian catastrophe.

How can Christians advocate such a transformation out of their faith? Based on the Ignatian tradition, the author invites attitudes and approaches that motivate a committed hope.

**Fabian Moos** is a Jesuit and a trained high school teacher. He is currently studying theology and lives and works on the Campus de la Transition south of Paris.

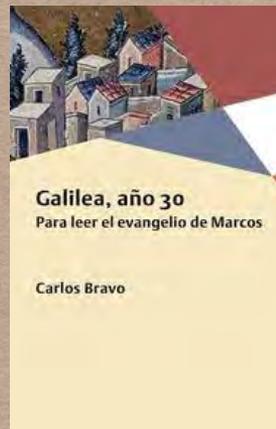


## KANT AND CHRISTIANITY

by **Rogelio Rovira**

**Herder, 208 p**

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## YEAR 30: GALILEE

Reading Mark's Gospel

by **Carlos Bravo Gallardo**

**Herder, 180 p**

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This complete and in-depth study aims to expose and evaluate the philosophical understanding of Christianity offered by Immanuel Kant, who did not pretend to judge the truth of Christian doctrines, but used them extensively to build a “moral religion”.

It addresses not only Kant's interpretation of various Christological dogmas, but also what the philosopher calls “the essential and most excellent of Christ's doctrine” namely, the explanation that ethical formalism proposes of the commandment of love to God and our neighbours, the peculiar Kantian interpretation of the Lord's Prayer and the philosophical exegesis offered by the Königsberg thinker of three famous verses from the Letter to the Romans: “Why not do evil so that good may come?”, “All have sinned” and “It is God who justifies”.

Christianity interpreted this way is not, clearly, the religion of Christ's worship, but the religion of Christ's doctrine. While the first one is, according to Kant, a “second-hand religion,” the second one constitutes its inalienable essence.

**Rogelio Rovira** is professor of Philosophy at Madrid Complutense University. A previous student of Prof. Balduin Schwarz -one of the first disciples of Dietrich von Hildebrand- he received his doctorate with a thesis on Kant's rational theology. He has authored several books, translations and editions of philosophical texts referring mainly to metaphysics and realist phenomenology.

Galilee was the place where Jesus imparted his first teachings and performed his first miracles.

The Galileans were despised by the Jews, who considered them impure, semi-pagan and sinful. For this reason, Jesus went and proposed them the alternative that God offered. Soon news of what Jesus was doing and saying reached all parts of Galilee, earning him great admiration and fame, but also many enemies.

Written in an agile and entertaining style, this is a book designed for readers interested in the story of Jesus and the message he wanted to convey to us.

**Carlos Bravo Gallardo**, a Mexican Jesuit and a doctor in theology is the author of “Notes for an Ecclesiology from Latin America” and “Jesus, a man in conflict”. He currently teaches at the Instituto Teológico de México and directs the “Christus” magazine.



READING  
**GENESIS 1-11**  
TODAY

by **Klaus Bäumlin**

**TVZ**, 172 p

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**A BRIEF HISTORY  
OF RELIGIOUS  
INTERPRETATIONS  
OF THE WORLD**  
From the Beginnings until  
Christianity

by **Helmut Fischer**

**TVZ**, 102 p

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“It is part of the deep wisdom of genesis that it depicts the good, the beautiful and the life-friendly, but it does not ignore or withhold the dark, chaotic, threatening and hostile to life. It is a manifesto of hope in a hopeless time with no positive perspectives, to encourage people not to give up on themselves and the future.”

Creation, Adam and Eve in Paradise, Cain and Abel, the Flood and the Tower of Babel - these well-known stories make up the first eleven chapters of the Bible. Klaus Bäumlin provides an understandable and competent introduction to biblical prehistory.

Particular attention is paid to the literary genesis and compilation of the biblical texts. Bäumlin shows that prehistory does not simply tell of ancient things, but on the contrary encapsulates the human condition in narratives and is therefore not tied to a specific time. It is about what has characterized people in good and bad from the beginning until today: the ambivalences of enlightenment, freedom and progress, the preservation and threat to creation. Read in this way the biblical prehistory becomes a cipher for the present. And it testifies to a God who does not turn away, but remains connected with what he created.

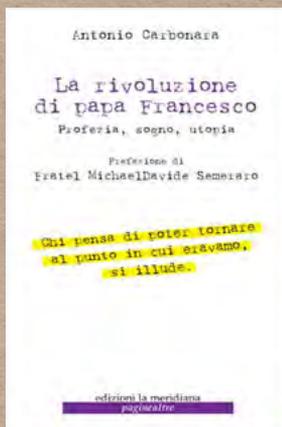
**Klaus Bäumlin**, a theologian, was pastor at the Nydegg Church in Bern from 1991 to 2001. Previously editor of “Saemann” and “Reformatio”, after retiring he led courses at the adult education center in Bern for 14 years.

Since Homo Sapiens learned to use language, they can imagine things beyond the objective world and also interpret the world in a religious sense.

Helmut Fischer outlines the religious conceptions of the world that played a central role in our culture: from the first agricultural societies and the Sumerian-Babylonian culture, from the mystery cults and Greek philosophy to the monotheistic religion of ancient Israel, and on to the Hellenistic-Roman culture to the Appearance of Jesus and the Christian understanding of the world. What they all have in common is that they interpret the world according to a “subjective paradigm”: the fiction that a subject is intentionally active in or behind everything that happens.

But how can the central Christian content be conveyed to people today who no longer understand the world subjectively, but rather in the functional paradigm of science and technology? At the end of his impressive journey through European religious history, Fischer shows that the message of Jesus can be expressed in an understandable way as an encouragement to be fully human regardless of the understanding of the world - and will remain so.

**Helmut Fischer**, a theologian, was professor at the theological seminary in Friedberg / Hessen and for many years its director. He has been retired since 1991 and continues to work in teacher training, adult education and as an author and teacher of icon painting.

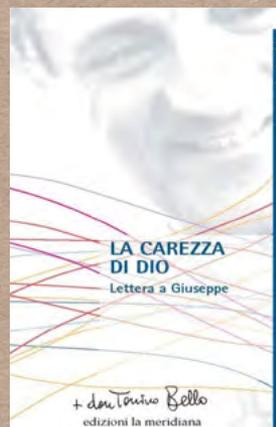


## POPE FRANCIS' REVOLUTION Prophecy, Dream, Utopia

by **Antonio Carbonara**

**La Meridiana, 82 p**

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## GOD'S CARESS

Sharing, Gratuitousness and  
Service in the throwaway Society

by **Antonio Bello**

**La Meridiana, 38 p**

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The image of a Pope who, as the bishop of Rome, wants to be the parish priest of a community is indicative of the reformist scope in Bergoglio's proposal for ecclesiastical conversion.

It's a sort of an upside-down careerism: rather than aspiring to dominate, one should aspire to become servant; rather than aspiring to be the first, one should rush to be the last, on the steps of Christ's example.

It is a total revolution.

**Antonio Carbonara**, A former head teacher, professor of Italian and Latin literature and mayor of Fasano where he founded the Leisure University "S. Francesco d'Assisi", he is the author of technical articles, poems and short stories.

On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Saint Joseph's being declared patron of the universal Church, the Pope announced a special "Year of Saint Joseph", during which - as stated in the Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary, which grants the gift of special Indulgences - "may each believer follow his example and daily strengthen his own life in faith fulfilling God's will".

To guide and accompany our reflections, Francis published an apostolic letter illustrating one of St. Joseph's aspects: paternity. The document opens: "With the heart of a father: this is how Joseph loved Jesus, called in all four Gospels "The son of Joseph".

Hence the initiative to republish a large text by God's Servant Antonio Bello in which the figure of Saint Joseph is the narrative thread. This is the speech he made in Assisi on the occasion of the 42nd Youth Conference in 1987 on the theme: "Captured by the ephemeral?" This explains the subtitle "In the throwaway society", which is the background to the speech and, in some way, inspires its drafting.

(From the preface by Card. Marcello Semeraro)

Mons. Antonio Bello was bishop of Molfetta and National President of Pax Christi. His pastoral choice to radically opt for the last, and his commitment to the promotion of peace, nonviolence, justice and solidarity, make him among the most daring prophets of our days.



## EXPERIMENTS WITH GOD

A Crash Course in Theology  
by **Hans-Joachim Höhn**

**Echter**, 168 p

ITALIAN, SPANISH AND  
PORTUGUESE RIGHTS AVAILABLE



## RESPONSIBLE COMPOSURE

Freedom in Times of Crisis  
by **Thomas Holtbernd**

**Echter**, 152 p

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Trying out something, deviating from routines, going productively astray – all of this can lead to surprising success in the pursuit for knowledge. In contrast, a lack of desire and imagination have fatal consequences. They thwart the learning process.

This also applies to theology students. Often, they have lost their interest in studying because it mainly takes place in a sterile exegesis of text, on the well-trodden paths of dogmatics or in the dull rearview mirror of historical-critical Christianity research. There are certainly other methods of gaining knowledge that are less prone to boredom! Imagination and fun thinking can be awakened mainly with thought experiments.

In his basic “Experimental Theology” course, Hans-Joachim Höhn introduces the core topics of the Christian faith in a creative and instructive way.

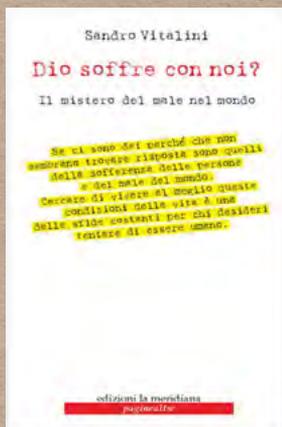
**Hans-Joachim Höhn** is professor of Systematic Theology and of Philosophy of Religion at the University of Cologne.

The measures to restrict the corona pandemic have put the whole of society before some poignant questions: in which areas of freedom do we live, which restrictions or obligations do we follow, what is our trust in those in positions of power and in other fellow human beings like? Are we ready to accept unreasonable demands in favor of the common good, and precisely for the sake of the weaker?

Based on this, Thomas Holtbernd makes it clear in his analysis: if we want to survive future conflicts, pandemics and disasters with as little damage as possible, it will be necessary to develop an understanding of freedom that enables us to deal with ambivalences, unstructured requirements and great uncertainty to be able to get around.

How the Church can make its contribution is also a matter of the tasks involved in the transition from a morally oriented society of values to a problem-solving conflict society.

**Thomas Holtbernd** is a theologian and a psychologist; he worked in hospital chaplaincy, is a management consultant, and runs a psychological practice.



## DOES GOD SUFFER WITH US?

The Mystery of Evil in the  
World

by **Sandro Vitalini**

**La Meridiana, 112 p**

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## ALL SISTERS

by **E.E. Green, S. Segoloni  
Ruta, S. Zorz**

**La Meridiana, 140 p**

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The God of Abraham, Moses and Jesus continues to suffer with human beings, to be with them and lead them to a life without limits.

Starting from this existential trust, many people have found the strength to live with their limitations and sufferings and to hope. This faith and hope cannot be demonstrated forcefully nor on a theoretical and argumentative level only. Those who do have this hopeful belief may be called to bear witness with their own experience before those who are painfully experiencing its limits.

If on these reflections, readers shall feel that they ought to oppose every form of evil with the vital impulse of a love capable of a total self-gift, if necessary, then these pages will not have been written in vain.

**Sandro Vitalini** was a professor of Dogmatic Theology and pro-vicar general of the Lugano Diocese. For several decades he carried out a widespread pastoral activity in favour of the cultural and spiritual formation of believers and non-believers. Covid-19 stole him from the earthly dimension of existence in 2020.

Pope Francis' Encyclical "All Brothers" deals with a plurality of topics in which the word "brothers", although meant to be inclusive of all, lends itself all too easily to the exclusion of many. There is, in fact, an important silence concerning women.

"Sorority" is not simply the equivalent and feminine parallel of fraternity. It is a word for breaking with a presumed "neutral and universal" world which actually is only masculine. Although overlooked in the ecclesial tradition, the rigid male-female gender binarism is something else altogether than being evenly witnessed in traditional spirituality and theology, Bringing the "sisters" to light even though in language only would mean influencing the patriarchal conception of relational and symbolic power relations between the sexes, where the feminine is defined and recognized only and exclusively by subtraction.

It is necessary to overcome - with truth and mercy - what divides us and keep alive "a fundamental sense of belonging", bearing in mind that conditions of injustice prevent peace.

**Elizabeth E. Green** carries out the pastoral ministry at the Christian Evangelical Baptist Union of Italy. She is a member of the Italian Women Theologians Coordination. **Simona Segoloni Ruta** is a layman (Perugia Diocese), and permanent teacher of Systematic Theology at the Assisi Theological Institute. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the ATI and vice-president of the Coordination of Italian Women Theologians. **Selene Zorz** is professor of Patrology at the Theological Institute of the Marches, and teacher of Philosophy, History and Human Sciences.



## A VOICE FROM HEAVEN

by **Sytse van der Veen**

**Brevier**, 224 p

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## ISLAND

by **Sytse van der Veen**

**Manuzio**, 128 p

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Lennart Zomers, first-year psychology student, longs for authorship and for friendship. When he meets the eccentric Arthur Visser both desires seems to be fulfilled.

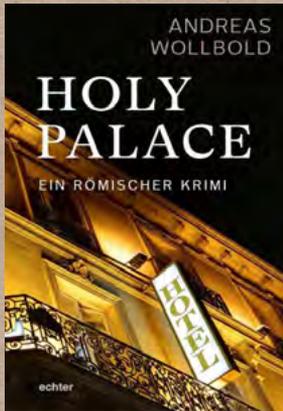
The fanatical atheist Arthur draws Richard on a special project: fighting of everything that Arthur received in his youth from his father, a strict Reformed pastor. It puts Richard in touch with the world of the conservative Christianity previously unknown to him; a world of traditions and religious experience.

An intriguing and exciting novel about the battle between conflicting beliefs, between faith and unbelief, between a son and his father.

**Sytse van der Veen** (1969) is financial manager and a writer.

The neighbours are leaving a week for holiday and mr. Wang will take care of the rats of neighbour girl Marijn. He did not dare to tell her that he is scared of rats and agrees. But on the very first evening he loses the keys. The rats get involved in a life-and-death struggle. Will he be able to save them? And what should he tell Marijn? The events cause his thoughts to return to China, where he grew up, and to his grandparents.

**Sytse van der Veen** (1969) is financial manager and a writer.



## HOLY PALACE

A Roman Thriller

by **Andreas Wollbold**

**Echter**, 240 p

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## THE LAST TRAIN

Priest Bodmer under Suspicion

by **Ueli Greminger**

**TVZ**, 120 p

**2nd edition**

**ITALIAN, SPANISH AND  
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“There are things that have to be left lying on the ground. If you pick up the stone, a poisonous adder will appear underneath.”

If Walter Hanseler, a former priest, would only follow this advice of a bartender during his stay in Rome! Instead, he lets himself be drawn into a strange case by the death of an old prelate. And so his planned vacation in Rome takes a completely different course than expected: Everything about this unique city gives him clues for his research, which leads him into holy and unholy circles.

A thriller that is also a declaration of love for Rome and for traveling!

**Andreas Wollbold**, dr. theol., is professor of Pastoral Theology at the Katholisch-Theologischen Fakultät der Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich.

“Then there was a misunderstanding. I wanted to toss you the lifebuoy. I didn't mean to get rid of you, no way. It was always about giving the soul space to become stronger, more free. We both didn't want to conform, we didn't want to be pieces on the other's board; we wanted to conquer the world, the fear of death. “

Scandal! Did priest Bodmer really help out when Dr. Gehring tried to put an end to his life? The suspicion weighs heavily, Bodmer ends up in custody. In the long hours of desperation, all he has left is writing. Writing is like praying, it distracts you, calms you down.

While the judiciary is investigating him, Bodmer is ruthlessly investigating his own professional ethics. What comes out of it shakes him deeply. On parole and back to his job, Bodmer suddenly leaves the city to become a winegrower in the country. What's behind his decision? What is he hiding?

The Author

**Ueli Greminger** has been a reformed priest for 35 years, at St. Peter in Zurich since 2007. He is particularly interested in the literary design of theology.



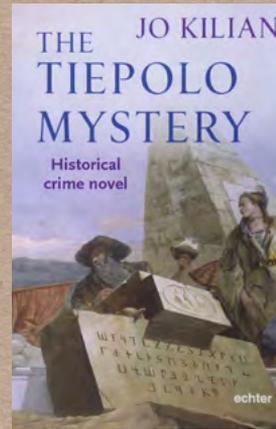
## LITTLE FUGUE IN G-MINOR

A Vatican Thriller

by **Gisbert Greshake**

**Echter**, 152 p

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PORTUGUESE TRANSLATION  
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## THE TIEPOLO MYSTERY

Historical Crime Novel

by **Jo Kilian**

**Echter**, 128 p

**ITALIAN, SPANISH AND  
PORTUGUESE TRANSLATION  
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Six naked bodies are found, their heads smashed into pulp, murdered by lethal injection - an enigmatic sequence of acts, and all traces lead to the Vatican.

Ostensibly, the case seems to be about child abuse. But then further abysses of the human soul open up. And the reaction of the ecclesiastical hierarchy is to cover everything up and conceal it for the sake of the reputation of the Church.

An exciting religious thriller, and at the same time a plea for a new form of church beyond a house full of glory far above the lowlands of the world.

**Gisbert Greshake** was professor of Dogmatics and Ecumenical Theology at the University of Freiburg. After his retirement, in 2006, he was a permanent visiting professor at the Gregoriana in Rome. He has published numerous theological and spiritual publications – as well as a religious thriller!

The Night is the Queen of Shadows

Summer of 1753: Master Tiepolo is painting the world famous fresco – The Four Continents – in the Würzburg Residence. Dragons, shady figures and puzzling hieroglyphics foresee the fall of the godly heavens.

Lorenzo, the master's youngest son, wants to steer fate onto a different course. But a two faced jester and a mysterious beauty cast the court of Prince Greiffenclau into chaos. It doesn't take long for the fun and games to transform into deathly seriousness.

**Jo Kilian** is the pseudonym of **Roman Rausch**. Roman is a German writer of crime, thriller and historical novels, stage plays and short stories. In 2002 he won the BOD-Author-Award for his *Kilian trilogy* at bookfair in Leipzig. 2011 he received the Weintourismuspreis award for his Kilian crime novels. In 2008 the novel *Kinderhexe* hit Top Ten of best historical novel and 2015 he's been awarded with HOMER for *Die letzte Jüdin von Würzburg* - a documentary about the killing of the Jewish community in 1349 in his hometown Würzburg.



## GLORY TO GOD

A Short Theology of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises

by **Stefan Kiechler**

**Echter**, 160 p

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## THE PATH OF CONTEMPLATION

Simple, but not always easy

by **Karin Seethaler**

**Echter**, 184 p

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The Ignatian Spiritual Exercises: proven for centuries, and at the same time excitingly contemporary. However, a theology of the Spiritual Exercises is still missing, as Karl Rahner wrote 65 years ago.

In a series of short essays on the central concerns of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises, Stefan Kiechle gives a theological perspective through the whole of them - a contribution to fulfilling Rahner's wish.

The Spiritual Exercises are about a living relationship with God as Creator, about healing and forgiveness, about mission, about the differentiation of spirits, about life with the cross and in the joy of God, about love and about community.

A theology that takes people who seek God seriously in their dignity and longing, in their passion and in their commitment.

**Stefan Kiechle** was born 1960 in Freiburg. He was a university chaplain and novice master, retreat leader and lecturer; from 2010 to 2017 he was Provincial of the German Province of the Jesuits. He lives in Frankfurt / Main and is editor-in-chief of the cultural magazine "Voices of Time" and the representative of the Order for Ignatian Spirituality.

Franz Jalics was abducted by paramilitaries in Argentina in 1976 and held captive for months.

During his captivity, he would repeatedly call out the name of Jesus, which helped him not to get broken by this experience.

After his release, he developed a step-by-step introduction to this simple manner of prayer, which he passed on to thousands of seekers in the years that followed.

Karin Seethaler explains the striking, groundbreaking statements from his books, sheds light on them from different perspectives, and substantiates them with examples from her own practice. She shows how the path of the contemplative tradition meets the needs of today's people who long for silence, simplicity and immediacy in their relationship with God.

**Karin Seethaler**, a graduate in social pedagogy, has lived and worked with Franz Jalics in the retreat house in Gries for almost five years; since 1993 she is a course leader for Christian meditation at home and abroad.

"Karin Seethaler's book provides a convincing and understandable introduction to the art of contemplation. It is the art of the contemplative approach to life that can heal the many wounds and tremors in today's world." - Tomáš Halík



## WHAT YOU REALLY NEED

Is Really Not That Much

by **Wunibald Müller**

**Echter**, 152 p

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## GOD, THE WORLD, MY CAT AND I

by **Ottmar Fuchs**

**Echter**, 144 p

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What does it really take? What can we hold on to, when life gets particularly challenging?

What gives us the support we need?

First of all, there are people with whom we are connected and on whom we can rely. Then there's ourselves, as we experience ourselves as meaningful, independent and powerful. We need all that – but that by itself is not enough.

What is also absolutely necessary is God, in whom we believe, to whom we unconditionally abandon ourselves and to whom we can pray. The author shows what that means by providing an insight into his everyday struggles and endeavors: ultimately, it's not that much that we really need. In fact, it is so little that, in the words of Fulbert Steffensky, it fits in a vendor's tray.

**Wunibald Müller** is a theologian, psychologist, and psychotherapist. He was co-founder and head of the Recollectio-Haus in Münsterschwarzach Abbey from 1991 to April 2016, is the author of numerous publications and a sought-after speaker; he lives in Würzburg.

When a theologian, Ottmar Fuchs, and his cat, Mauzi, think about the world, it can lead to amazing insights. Because cats, even worshiped as gods in ancient Egypt, can give us gifts in many things in life.

Their wisdom can be an eye-opener: for cats are in favor of freedom against oppression, of creative chaos against oppressive one-dimensionality, of vital life against its restrictive moralization, of stubbornness against any kind of training, of laziness against permanent performance stress, and of free-creative thinking against dogmatic fundamentalisms.

**Ottmar Fuchs** is a theologian. He has taught Pastoral Theology and Kerygmatik at Bamberg University from 1981 to 1998. He has become professor of Practical Theology at the Faculty of Tübingen University Catholic Theology in 1998.



## OF LOVING AND OF DYING

Searching for the Core Meaning of Christianity

by **Bertram Dickerhof**

**Echter**, 304 p

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## ON THE SIDE OF LIFE

Ethical Challenges of Palliative Medicine and Care

by **Stephan Sahm**

**Echter**, 112 p

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The core of Christianity lies in the transformation of man.

Structures, rituals and morals can help. But Bertram Dickerhof sees the decisive factor on this path in consciously living through borderline situations.

These reveal the illusionary nature and selfishness of one's own aspirations. If this is recognized and accepted by people, their previous self-image "dies" and their real reason opens up. It is the basis of all reality: unconditional love, a love that frees him to live out of unity with this ground and to find lasting fulfillment in it.

Enduring limits requires practice. The place for this is in prayer and in the spirit of the Lord's Prayer and the Beatitudes - prayers that lingers in perception, and thus distinguish and influence everyday life.

The Author

**Bertram Dickerhof**, a Jesuit, mathematician and theologian, is a trainer for group dynamics and teacher for Vipassana meditation, founded the Christian life school Ashram Jesu in 2003, which inspires seekers to discover and follow their personal spiritual path.

The discussion about euthanasia does not let go of society. Many are unsure about the ethical assessment of medical actions at the end of life.

As a palliative medicine specialist, Stephan Sahm is familiar with everyday medical practice and reflects on it as a professor of ethics in medicine. Against this background he explains and justifies his position and makes clear distinctions: bringing about death, killing, is not a goal of medicine.

Accompanying the dying is one of the humane duties - in the language of religion: one of the works of mercy. But that requires cleverness when it comes to formulating your position in the social dispute. It is important to make the mercy and respect for life in the secular world heard, and even more: to live it in everyday life.

**Stephan Sahm** is professor of medical ethics at the Goethe University, Frankfurt, and chief physician at Offenbach's Ketteler hospital with a focus on tumor treatment and palliative medicine. He is a member of many scientific societies and ethics commissions, including the Pontifical Academy for Life in Rome, and has been invited to hearings of the German Bundestag several times as an expert; he publishes regularly on the problems of medical and bioethics in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.



## WHAT GIVES LIFE TO THE SOUL

Spirituality from the Earth

by **Michael Rosenberger**

**Echter**, 216 p

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## LIFE CRISES AND THEIR MESSAGES

Of Beginnings and Transitions

by **Georg Lauscher**

**Echter**, 96 p

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“What is it, that gives one life? What helps people to live intensely, attentively and consciously?” This is the question of a “spirituality from below”, a “spirituality from earth” that refrains from intellectual flights of fancy and stays on the ground.

Such a spirituality can only start from basic human experiences and be developed in a broad ecumenical sense. This has a great advantage: it is simple in the sense of “elementary” and “uncomplicated”. In the 2000 years of their existence, the Christian churches have made the building of belief and spiritual practice more and more complicated. The solution to this hyper-complexity is going “back to the roots” and the restriction to a few, anthropologically fundamental, yet demanding doctrinal impulses and practices.

In this sense, Michael Rosenberger opens up the core of a spirituality accessible to all people in order to gain orientation for the practical way of life.

**Michael Rosenberger**, theologian, holds the chair for moral theology at the Catholic Private University in Linz; he has numerous publications on environmental ethical issues to his name.

During life crises, something breaks. But the experience of a crisis is never good or bad from the outset. Depending on how one deals with them, they can lead to disaster or to a new beginning.

Even spirituality cannot exist without experiencing crises, because they are simply a part of life - to grow into spiritual depths as well as into social, even universal expanses. A crisis-ripe faith harbors unimagined creative powers for shaping one’s life, both personally and politically, and has an impact on contact with the weaknesses of others and with the weak in society.

Georg Lauscher walks along the cracks of life, tracks down the hidden messages of the experience of loss or failure, and interprets them from the viewpoint of Franciscan spirituality in order to transcend them into spiritual experiences.

**Georg Lauscher**, born in 1956, is a priest in the diocese of Aachen. He lived in socially disadvantaged areas for over 20 years and worked for a number of years as an unskilled worker in the steel and textile industry. Today he is active in spiritual accompaniment and as a spiritual in the formation of deacons and priests.



## BREEZE AND WINE

On the Topicality of Kohelet, the Preacher Solomon

by **Georg Schwikart**

**Echter**, 192 p

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## EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE... OR WILL IT?

Franciscan Inspirations for the Climate Crisis

by **Katrin Bederna**

**Echter**, 96 p

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The book of Kohelet (also called Ecclesiastes Solomon) is a biblical work full of practical and wisdom derived from experience. There is no abstract gossip here. The author observes the world soberly and objectively and draws his conclusions, wrapped in bold aphorisms.

One looks in vain for religious speculations or lyrical hymns to the Creator. Georg Schwikart even sees the real punch line in this: "Although everything is as it is, the preacher believes in God. God is there, the world takes its course. Reasonable behavior is derived from this. And put in practice."

By combining this old collection of texts with stories he has personally experienced, Schwikart shows how up-to-date and realistic they are – even today.

**Georg Schwikart**, dr. phil., born in 1964, is a religious scholar, theologian and folklorist. He is a pastor in Bonn, author of numerous books, a member of the Association of German Writers and known for his radio reports to start the day.

Although Francis of Assisi has been a role model for them for 800 years, Christians and the rest of the world are facing an ecological disaster today. Technology and economy alone aren't enough to tackle the current ecological crisis. When we say 'climate protection' and 'animal protection', what we really mean is that we have to protect the world from us, the humans – that we need to hold back and exercise restraint in order to make the world a better place for everyone.

Based on the key issues of clothing and nutrition, living and energy, mobility and property, relationships with animals and nature, this book seeks inspiration and motivation in the Franciscan traditions for a transformation of our lifestyle.

After studying theology, philosophy and mathematics, **Katrin Bederna** became first a high school teacher, then since 2004 a professor for Catholic theology and religious education at the Ludwigsburg University of Education. She has numerous publications on mysticism and sustainability to her name.

Eulama's Staff is looking forward to hearing from you!  
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